

FLOTTILLA GIVEN ROYAL WELCOME

Panama Receives Torpedo-Boats With Exuberant Joy.

OFFICERS PUBLIC GUESTS

Proclamation by Little Republic Expresses Love for Big One. Boats Have Good Voyage from Callao.

PANAMA, March 14.—The American torpedo-boat flotilla, under the command of Lieutenant Hutch I. Cone, which left Callao March 9, arrived here unexpectedly this morning at 9 o'clock, and anchored in the harbor. According to the itinerary the vessels were expected here Monday, so they are consequently two days ahead of time. The voyage from Callao was most successful. The weather was pleasant and the flotilla experienced no delays. The boats are in good condition and all on board are well. Many preparations are being made

they may sail from this station by April 20. Orders have also been received to have all repairs on the monitor Wyoming, which is being changed into an all-burner vessel, rushed forward.

EQUAL TO GREAT BRITAIN

French Naval Officers Astonished at Performance of Fleet.

PARIS, March 14.—News of the decision to send the American battleship fleet back to the Atlantic Coast by way of Australia and the Suez Canal, is received here as a crowning revelation of the efficiency of the American Navy. The statement that the cruise is to be extended in this manner has opened the eyes of the French public, which had been led to believe that the American Navy was a good deal of a "bluff," that the cruise around South America would demonstrate the incapacity of the vessels, and that if it was accomplished the ships would be ready for the scrapheap. Even in French naval circles the belief was that the long voyage would develop structural weaknesses in the vessels themselves, or at least serious breakdowns in the engine-rooms. In view of these opinions, the announcement that the fleet arrived at Magdalena Bay ahead of her schedule, ready for target practice, and in better condition than when it sailed from Hampton Roads in December, has created all the more astonishment.

Many French officers now frankly say the impressive demonstration given by the American fleet officers' ability to keep at sea raises the American Navy to an equality with that of Great Britain, and that if the return journey is as successful as the trip around South America has been, the American Navy will have demonstrated that she has no superior in the world.

The French Minister of Marine, M. Thomson, is so impressed with the result of this cruise that he is instructing Lieutenant-Commander De Blaupere,

DAY FOR ORATORS

House Members Talk on All Political Topics.

WHO CAUSED THE PANIC?

Hamlin Undertakes to Answer Old Question Against Republicans. Hall of South Dakota Wants Free Lumber.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Once again members of the House were today afforded an opportunity under license of general debate to express their views on topics of the day. Among other subjects politics, the recent financial panic, the tariff and the Sherman anti-trust law all were discussed while the pension appropriation bill technically was under consideration. No time has been agreed upon when general debate shall conclude. The speakers today were Bammon of Ohio, who talked of the prosperity of that state and incidentally counted it surely Republican next November; Hamlin of Missouri, who placed on the shoulders of the Republicans the responsibility for the recent panic; Carter of Oklahoma, who pleaded for a removal of the restrictions affecting Indian land in that state; Langley of Kentucky, who

self with some poison. Coroner F. M. Carroll has ordered a post mortem.

PROD NEGLIGENT SENATORS

Democrat Steering Committee Says They Don't Attend Meetings.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The Democratic steering committee of the Senate took up the subject of inattention to business on the part of the minority Senators in the committee meetings and on the floor of the Senate. No rule was adopted, but it was understood that Senator Chisbroon, the minority leader, will prod the Democratic Senators to closer attention to business. The steering committee decided to appoint Senator-elect Gary to all of the late Senator Latimer's committees except agriculture, which will be given to Senator Gore. Senator Gary will be appointed also to the committee on privileges and elections.

CONFER ON NEW TRUST BILL

Roosevelt and Officials Consider Amendment of Sherman Law.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—There was another conference at the White House tonight on the proposed legislation for revising the Sherman anti-trust law in a way to prevent it from applying unduly toward organized labor and to permit pooling of rates by the railroads. Secretary Glavin of the Interior Department, Commissioner Smith of the Bureau of Corporations and Commission Neill of the Bureau of Labor were present.

PENSION BILL BEFORE HOUSE

Carries Largest Appropriation Ever Before Included.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—For the



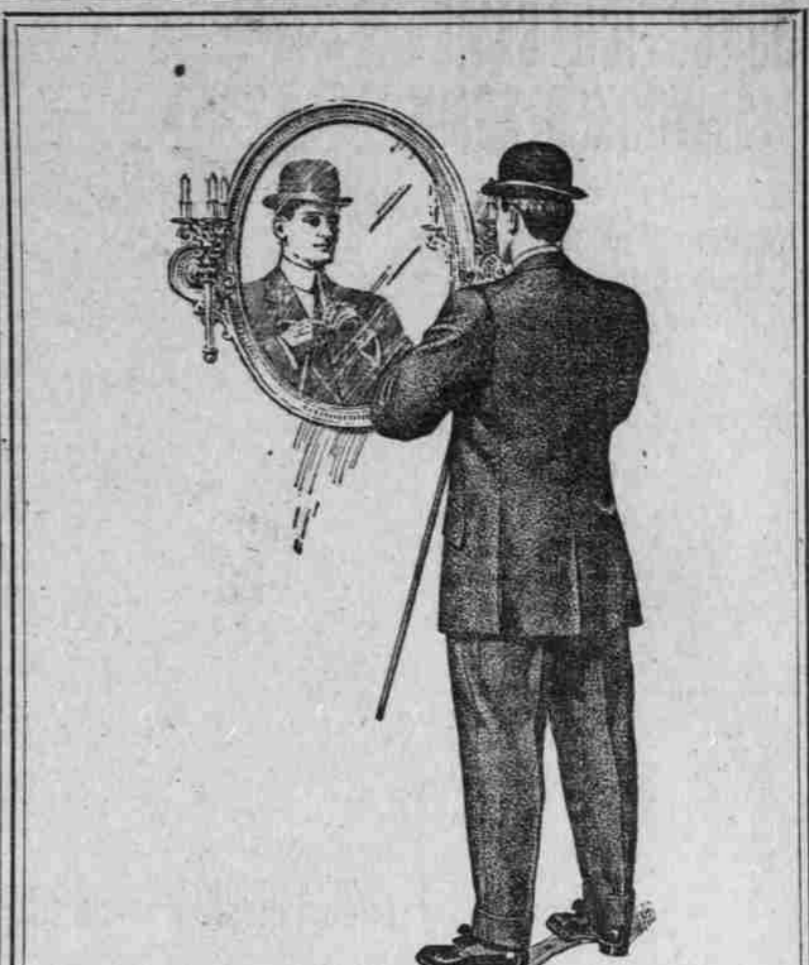
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Increasing the Vice-President's authority and influence so as to make the office more attractive. One of these was to give him a Cabinet seat. But obviously



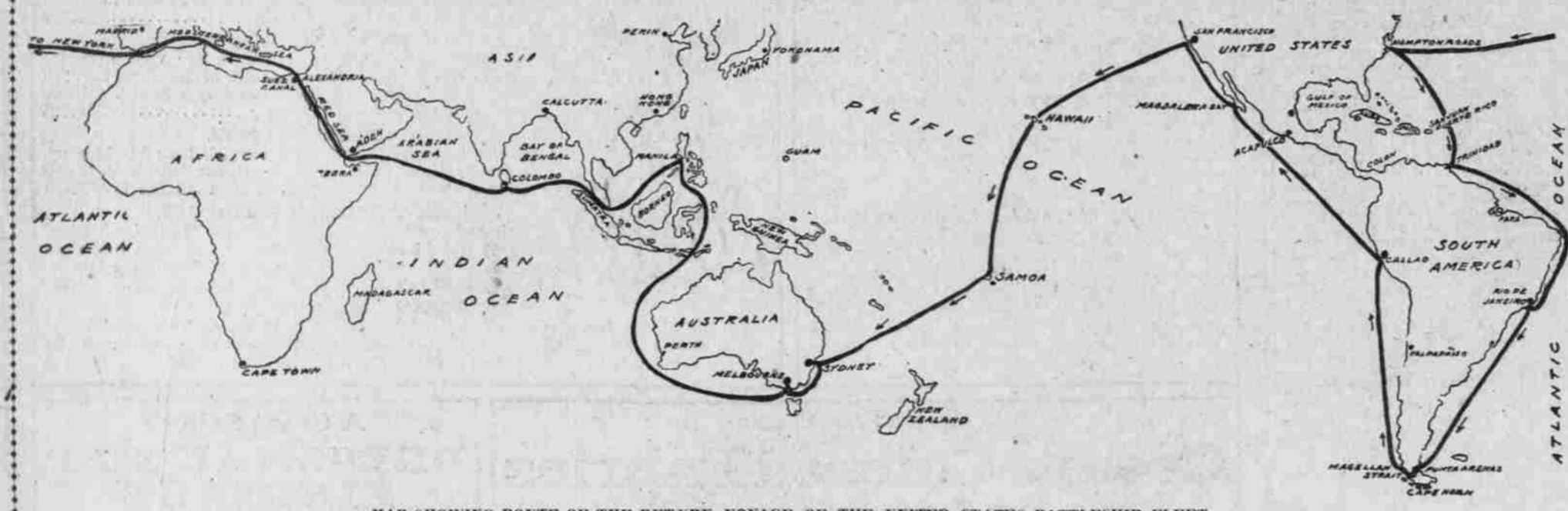
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here for the entertainment of the officers. It is expected that the vessels will remain here until March 21, when they are scheduled to sail for Acapulco. The arrival of the flotilla caused great excitement, as the destroyers had not been expected for at least a day or two. Everybody, however, appeared greatly pleased, especially the Americans from the Canal Zone, who have been arriving here all day in order to get a glimpse of the boats anchored in the bay.

A decree of welcome was issued by the Panama government and many invitations to social entertainments to be given in honor of the visitors were sent to Lieutenant Cone, President Amador's decree says in part: "First, the officers of the destroyer squadron shall be the guests of the Republic during the sojourn here. Second, the national flag shall be hoisted on all public buildings on the arrival of the squadron and shall remain hoisted the whole day. Third, the inhabitants of the city are hereby requested to decorate the facades of their houses with the flags of Panama and the United States during the visit of the squadron in token of brotherhood between the two countries. Fourth, the festivities in honor of the officers and crews shall be governed by a special programme. The expenses incurred shall be defrayed by the national treasury."

MOVEMENTS OF THE CRUISERS

Buffalo to Remain at Magdalena.

South Dakota at Santa Barbara.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., March 14.—Wireless messages this morning from Magdalena Bay state that the cruiser Buffalo, which was practically the only United States vessel at the bay when the battleships arrived, will leave tonight or early tomorrow and will be in San Diego on Tuesday. The Buffalo is in command of Captain Charles Pond, and it was understood that she would remain at Magdalena for the purpose of handling targets for the fleet practice. This work will have to be done by the Navy tug Fortuna. The reason for the trip of the Buffalo is not made apparent by the dispatch.

The South Dakota is to leave here within a few days for Santa Barbara, for a visit. She will return to San Diego and Captain Fox states that he intends to bring her inside for a ten-day stay. She will be the largest war vessel that ever came over the bar, being 600 tons larger than the Charleston. The California, which arrived last evening, will sail North with the Tennessee and Washington early in the week and will stop first at San Pedro.

The coming of the Calagoa has started the contractors who are under contract to furnish supplies, and though they are not bound to deliver until March 17, they will rush their stuff aboard as rapidly as possible. Nearly 30 tons of fresh meat will be taken, including two carloads of sausage, now on the way from the East.

Henry T. Reuterdahl, the well-known correspondent, whose criticism of the construction of the battleships of the United States Navy has created such a storm of discussion and investigation, was on board the California passenger from Callao. Mr. Reuterdahl left Hampton Roads with the fleet on its long cruise, having obtained special permission from the Navy Department to do so. He remained in the city only a few hours, and left for the North. He declined to discuss naval matters and his criticisms, but it is understood he will attend the investigation in Washington.

RUSH REPAIRS TO CRUISERS

Navy Department Wants Vessels Out of Navy-Yard.

MARE ISLAND, Cal., March 14.—In accordance with orders just received at the Navy-Yard, from the Navy Department, all work on the cruisers West Virginia and Maryland, which have been under repair here for the past three weeks, will be rushed to completion, in order that

the French naval attaché at Washington, to proceed to San Francisco and send in a full report of the condition of the ships and the lessons of the cruise. The lack of boiler accidents and other criticisms of the contrast furnished by the French navy, where trouble in the engine-rooms is constant, and M. Thomson has been questioned as to why the government does not use the American type of boilers, which is now being manufactured in France.

A salient feature of the cruise which is attracting attention here is the success obtained from the American system of employing line officers in the engine-rooms. This procedure up to the present time has been regarded with some skepticism in French naval circles. Judged from a political standpoint, the decision to start the fleet from the Pacific Coast on its homeward voyage in July is considered conclusive that Washington is now convinced that the issue between the United States and Japan will be adjusted amicably.

DUNSMUIR MAY SELL ESTATES

Lieutenant-Governor Likely to Make Permanent Home in England.

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 14.—A dispatch to the Province from Victoria says: Following the announcement of his early departure for a prolonged cruise in the Mediterranean, comes a well-authenticated report that Lieutenant-Governor James Dunsmuir may sell his entire Vancouver Island holdings, including valuable coal mines and coal lands, to an English syndicate. If the deal goes through, Mr. Dunsmuir and family will take up their permanent residence in England.

Manila Begins to Make Ready.

MANILA, March 14.—Preparations have already begun for the reception and entertainment of the officers and crews of the American battleship fleet at this city. The formation of a large reception committee, made up of Americans and Filipinos, will be undertaken immediately. Officials here expect that a large squadron will be left at this port, as the decision of Congress to make Manila a naval station will require the presence of a big fleet.

Victoria Invites Fleet.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 14.—The British Columbia government has requested Lieutenant-Governor Dunsmuir to send an invitation through the proper channels to the United States Navy Department at Washington, and to Admiral Evans, inviting the United States Atlantic squadron under his command to visit Victoria and Vancouver. The invitation will be sent at once.

Put New Hampshire in Commission.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The new battleship New Hampshire has been ordered placed in commission at the League Island Navy-Yard. She is commanded by Captain Cameron McR. Winslow.

"WHAT WOMEN WILL DO"

Attractive Melodrama Coming to the Empire Next Sunday. Of all the productions that have opened this season, not one has met with more pronounced success than "What Women Will Do," which comes to the Empire for the week starting next Sunday matinee, March 22. Patrons of this popular playhouse will be afforded an opportunity to witness a most delightful performance; thrills, sentiment, comedy and song following one another in profusion. The scenes are laid in Paris and on English shores, requiring the most beautiful and expensive scenery ever carried by any production of this character. To his chance of seeing the greatest hit of the season would be doing oneself an injustice to say the least.

wanted pensions granted certain persons in Kentucky, who aided in suppressing the rebellion; Hughes of New Jersey, who decried the Sherman anti-trust law amended so as to work less hardship on labor organizations; and Hall of South Dakota, who argued for a repeal of the duty on lumber.

As had been done by numerous other Democratic members during the present session, Hamlin refused to concede that panic only occurred either during a Democratic administration or as the result of Democratic legislation. He asserted that the facts showed just the contrary. He decried the Republican failure, as he stated, to provide remedial legislation on subjects of National importance and he declared that next November the voters of the country would have to be reckoned with. General debate for the day was closed by Hall of South Dakota who urged the repeal of the duty on lumber. While maintaining that he was a protectionist, Hall said he did not favor this duty in view of the rapid depletion of American forests.

CONTRIBUTED TO BOTH SIDES

Lilley Says Electric Boat Company Played No Favorites.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The special committee appointed by Speaker Cannon to investigate the charges made by Representative Lilley, of Connecticut, concerning alleged efforts to influence legislation by the Electric Boat Company, has summoned a number of witnesses to appear before it Monday morning, when the investigation will be resumed. The subpoenas include Marion Butler, formerly United States Senator for North Carolina. The subpoenas duces tecum which were sent by the committee to Mr. Lilley for P. E. Rice and other officials of the Electric Boat Company, have not yet been served.

Replying to Chairman Boutell's statement published today that Mr. Lilley had retracted before the special committee charges which he had made before the rules committee concerning members of the House, Mr. Lilley says: "Mr. Boutell says I told the committee on rules I expected to prove that large sums of money were contributed to campaign funds of Presidential parties in Congressional districts and before the investigating committee. I did not charge corruption of any member of the House. Now, it is well known that campaign funds heretofore have been the common practice and are not legally corrupt. I do expect to prove, if the committee will give my attorneys an opportunity to do so, that the Electric Boat Company, through its agents, has contributed to campaign funds of both parties."

WOMAN DRINKS HERSELF DEAD

SEATTLE, Wash., March 14.—(Special.)—Mrs. Margaret Glidden, wife of Harry Glidden, formerly a broker of Seattle and the son of a wealthy Spokane banker, was found dead in her room at the Otis, 464 Summit avenue, shortly after noon today. She was in bed when a janitor of the house crawled through a window of the room. Strewed about the room were eight empty bottles that had contained alcohol. The indications were that she had suffered a hemorrhage just before she expired. An overdose of alcohol causing a hemorrhage, is the diagnosis of the case made by Deputy Coroner S. F. Wiltale, who made an investigation of the case soon after the body was discovered. The tragedy shocked the exclusive First Hill Hotel, and tonight the affair was discussed by the guests in whispers. Even after the first examination by the Coroner it was not known and is not yet known positively whether the woman died from the alcohol or whether she killed her-

self the chief influence a Cabinet officer acquires is due to his close relationship with the President, who chooses him. An outsider thrust on the Chief Executive would count for little. The truth is that the Vice-Presidency is a superfluous office and ought to be abolished by constitutional amendment. The outcome would be far more likely to prove satisfactory if the Presidential office should devolve on Cabinet members in turn rather than upon the representative of a minority faction chosen for political reasons in the heat of the convention to placate disgruntled leaders.

Lend Tents for Elks Convention.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Beal, of Texas, today introduced a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to lend 2500 tents to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for use at the National convention of the order to be held at Dallas in July, 1908.

Vice-Presidency Needless?

Kansas City Star. Various suggestions have been made for

Cuts Price of Plate Glass.

PITTSBURGH, March 14.—The Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company today announced an average reduction of 25 per cent in the price of plate glass. It is believed the reduction will stimulate the plate-glass business.

Anarchist Meeting Forbidden.

PHILADELPHIA, March 14.—An anarchist meeting, advertised to be held to-

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